

Message Text

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ORIGIN ACDA-02

INFO OCT-01 IO-01 ISO-00 /004 R

666

DRAFTED BY ACDA/NWT:RMIKULAK: EMS

APPROVED BY ACDA/NWT:TDDAVIES

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R 112013Z NOV 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 258287

FOL REPEAT STATE 258287 SENT ACTION CAIRO BONN

INFO MOSCOW OCT 31

QTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 258287

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, EG

SUBJECT: QATTARA DEPRESSION PROJECT - NUCLEAR ASPECTS

1. IT HAS BEEN DECIDED THAT THE USG WILL NOMINATE AN EXPERT IN THE PNE FIELD, WHO ALSO HAS EXPERTISE IN CONVENTIONAL EXCAVATION TECHNIQUES, TO SERVE AS A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF ADVISORS FOR EGYPT'S FEASIBILITY STUDY OF THE QATTARA DEPRESSION PROJECT. IN ADDITION, LOW-LEVEL COMPUTATIONAL AND OTHER SUPPORT MAY BE OBTAINED AS NECESSARY FROM USG CONTRACTOR LABORATORIES DURING THE COURSE OF THE STUDY. US PARTICIPATION SHOULD BE LOW-KEY BUT INTENDED TO FULLY APPRISE THE EGYPTIANS OF THE RISKS AND PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH PNE EXCAVATION EVENTS, AS WELL AS THE ADVANTAGES THEY MAY OFFER, AND THE POSSIBILITIES OF ALTERNATIVE CONVENTIONAL TECHNIQUES.

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2. IT HAS ALSO BEEN DECIDED THAT AT AN EARLY DATE FOLLOWING CONSULTATION WITH GOE AND FRG, THE IAEA SHOULD BE INFORMED OF OUR INVOLVEMENT IN THIS EFFORT AND KEPT ADVISED AS THE STUDY PROCEEDS. MORE DIRECT IAEA INVOLVEMENT WILL BE CONSIDERED IF THE IAEA SUGGESTS THAT THIS IS DESIRABLE.

3. FOR CAIRO: DRAWING ON THE ABOVE GUIDANCE, YOU SHOULD INFORM GOE AT HIGH LEVEL THAT USG WILL PROVIDE ASSISTANCE DESCRIBED ABOVE. YOU SHOULD STRESS, HOWEVER, THAT:

-- BASED ON OUR STUDIES, IT DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE POSSIBLE TO CARRY OUT MAJOR PNE EXCAVATION PROJECTS, INCLUDING THE QATTARA PROJECT AS CURRENTLY PROPOSED, WITHOUT VIOLATING THE LTBT; AND

-- OUR INVOLVEMENT IN THE FEASIBILITY STUDY DOES NOT CARRY ANY COMMITMENT BY THE USG TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROJECT ITSELF OR TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH IT IN ANY WAY SHOULD THE PROJECT EVER BE UNDERTAKEN.

4. FOR BONN: DRAWING ON PARAS 1, 2 AND 3 ABOVE, YOU SHOULD INFORM FRG AT APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF US POSITION ON PARTICIPATION IN QATTARA DEPRESSION FEASIBILITY STUDY. AS APPROPRIATE, IF IT APPEARS TO BE AN ITEM OF CONCERN, YOU SHOULD ASSURE BONN THAT WHILE THE US NOMINEE WILL ALSO HAVE CONVENTIONAL EXPERTISE, WE DO NOT INTEND TO COMPETE WITH THE FRG'S ROLE IN THE CONVENTIONAL ASPECTS OF THE STUDY. KISSINGER

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INGERSOLL

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS, QATTARA PROJECT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE258287
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RMIKULAK: EMS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D750379-0051
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751098/aaaagtoo.tel
Line Count: 96
Locator: TEXT ON MICROFILM, TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN ACDA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 APR 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <17 SEP 2003 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> srp 971014
Subject: QATTARA DEPRESSION PROJECT - NUCLEAR ASPECTS
TAGS: ENRG, EG
To: BONN
CAIRO
IAEA VIENNA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006